

Theory 7

MATRIMONY AND THE MORAL LIFE

Love, Sex, Marriage and Homosexuality

If we want to understand the nature and truth of these we must begin by looking at God. We were made in His image. God created man in His image specifically as male and female. This means that the complementarity of the sexes makes *visible* God's *invisible* mystery.

What is God's invisible mystery?

1 John chapter 4 tells us, "God is love".

In the Trinity there are three divine Persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit living in a life-giving communion of love (CCC 2331).

In the Trinity God is...

- A free and total gift of self
- That results in a permanent union of persons
- From which another person springs forth

God designed marriage and family to be a living reflection of Himself and an image of His everlasting love. The meaning of marriage and family is not based on a definition created by the government nor by one's sexual preferences.

The God-given meaning of sex (gender)

God designed sex to be the "body language" that expresses the love of the Trinity.

The man is disposed in his very being towards *making the gift* of himself to the woman. And the woman is disposed in her very being towards *receiving the gift* of the man into herself and giving herself back to him. This gift of self results in a life-giving communion of love. The most basic unit of being made in God's image is a man, woman and a child.

Pope John Paul II during his January 16, 1980, Wednesday Audience said:

“This freedom lies at the basis of the nuptial meaning of the body. The human body, with its sex, and its masculinity and femininity seen in the very mystery of creation, is not only a source of fruitfulness and procreation, as in the whole natural order. It includes right from the beginning the nuptial attribute, that is, the capacity of expressing love, that love in which the person becomes a gift and - by means of this gift - **fulfills the meaning of his being and existence.**”

“Indeed, the Lord Jesus, when He prayed to the Father, "that all may be one. . . as we are one" (John 17:21-22) opened up vistas closed to human reason, for He implied a certain likeness between the union of the divine Persons, and the unity of God's sons in truth and charity. This likeness reveals that man, who is the only creature on earth which God willed for itself, **cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself**” (*Gaudium et Spes*, par. 24).

All marital and sexual morality is based on whether or not the thought or action reflects God's love.

Is it a free and total gift of self? Does it express the permanent, exclusive union of the spouses? And is it a gift of self, ordered to new life?

Sex before or outside of marriage is not a total gift of self that expresses a permanent indissoluble union; therefore, it does not reflect God's love. Masturbation (CCC 2352) and fornication (CCC 2353) are sins against chastity, and adultery (CCC 2380, 2381) is also a sin against the dignity of marriage.

Divorce does not reflect a permanent unbreakable union; therefore, it does not reflect God's love. Divorce is a grave offense against the natural law (CCC 2384).

Contraception does not reflect a total gift of self if one's fertility is held back. It is not ordered to new life. Contraception does not reflect God's love (CCC 2366). In fact, contraception is at the root of abortion.

Marital chastity is not just avoiding artificial contraception. Open to life but prayerfully determining responsible parenthood, spouses may wish to space the births of their children (CCC 2368). Using accepted methods of birth regulation respects the bodies of the spouses, encourages tenderness, and favors authentic freedom. "...every action which...render(s) procreation impossible is intrinsically evil" (CCC 2370, 2395).

The opposite of love is not hate; the opposite of love is use. Any sexual act that lacks the full dimensions of Triune love is therefore an act of use.
It is always wrong to use another.

Homosexuality (CCC 2357-2359)

God does not create people to desire and then to be united to the same sex. The disordered desire for the same sex is a consequence of original sin, of fallen and wounded human nature. Our sexual identity refers to being created in God's image as a male or a female.

Male and female bodies have distinctly different genitals created for union and ordered to new life. Homosexual sex does not create a union that is ordered to new life. Homosexual unions and sex do not reflect God's love.

What is the meaning of marriage? We were made in the image of God as male and female to reflect the life and love of God.

To give homosexual union equal status to marriage is to say that marriage has no meaning and that any kind of union can be considered marriage (same sex, polygamist).

Heterosexuals decided that marriage and sex don't have to reflect God's life and love. They don't have to be total, permanent and ordered to new life as reflected through no fault divorce, sex with contraception not ordered to children and abortion.

Conclusion

God is love. The Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit living in a life-giving communion of love (CCC 2331). This is the model of marriage and family.

1. A free and total gift of self
2. A permanent union of persons
3. Ordered to new life

God designed sex to be the "body language" that expresses the love of the Trinity. All marital and sexual morality is based on whether or not the thought or action reflects God's love.

Homosexuality, sex before or outside marriage, divorce and contraception do not reflect God's love because these acts either deny or undermine the gift of self or permanent union, or these acts lack the gift of one's fertility, and therefore are not ordered to new life.

Our sexual identity refers to being created in God's image as a male or a female distinctly designed for gift of self, union and ordered to new life, reflecting God's love.